

REMARKS

The instant Amendment A is responsive to the first Office Action dated August 24, 2004. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 as set forth herein patentably distinguish over the cited references, and accordingly ask for allowance of claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 as set forth herein.

The current status of the claims

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Word 2000, Copyright 1983-1999, Microsoft Corporation, Screen Printouts pages 1-2 (Hereinafter MS Word).

The informalities in the specification and drawings are addressed

Regarding the informalities pointed out in ¶3 of the Office Action, these are addressed by replacing the reference number 66 pointing to text in Figs. 4(b) and 4(c) with reference number 67, and by replacing the reference number 68 pointing to the cursor in Fig. 4(b) with reference number 69. These changes are indicated by a marked-up version of Figs. 4(b) and 4(c) attached herewith. The specification is amended herein to be consistent with these drawing changes.

Regarding the informalities pointed out at ¶4 of the Office Action, these are addressed by amendment of the specification to replace the erroneous figure designations 1(a), 1(b), 1(c), 1(d) with 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d). Accordingly, no drawing amendment is believed to be required.

Regarding the informalities pointed out at ¶5 of the Office Action, Applicants are unable to find a reference number 67 in original Fig. 4(b). In the amended drawing provided herewith, there is now a reference number 67 due to the change noted above responsive to ¶3 of the Office Action.

Regarding the informality pointed out at ¶6 of the Office Action, this has been addressed by amendment of the specification to replace the objected reference number 50 with 54.

A note on MS Word versions

The Notice of References Cited provided with the Office Action cites (item U) Microsoft, Microsoft Word 2000 Screen Shots, Copyright 1999, Screen Printouts pages 1-2.

Applicants do not have access to the 1999 version of MS Word. Rather, Applicants have access to the 2002 version of Word. However, it appears that the dialog windows cited in the Office Action are substantially unchanged in the 2002 version of MS Word versus the 1999 version of MS Word. In particular, Applicants were able to reproduce the dialog window screenshots of Figs. 2, 3, and 4 of the Office Action using the 2002 version.

Accordingly, Applicants remarks herein regarding observations of dynamic behavior of the cited dialog windows employ Word 2002.

The MS Word examples illustrate problems solved in the present application

Fig. 2 of the Office Action shows the "Find-and-Replace" pop-up window of MS Word with the "Goto" tab selected. This pop-up window includes a left-hand selection list and a right-hand text entry box. In Fig. 2, the "Goto" tab appears to have just been selected for the first time, and so the default "Page" is highlighted in the left-hand selection list and the corresponding "Enter page number" text entry box appears as the right-hand text entry box. It will be noted that the "Enter page number" text entry box does not include a drop-down arrow, and previous entries into the "Enter page number" text entry box are not re-usable via a drop-down list. This dialog of Fig. 2 including a free-form entry without the possibility of re-using previous entries via a drop-down list is irrelevant to the present application.

Fig. 3 of the Office Action shows the pop-up window after the "Comment" entry of the left-hand list is selected and highlighted. As a result of this selection, the "Enter page number" text entry box disappears and is replaced by an "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box. The "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box is a different text entry box from the "Enter page number" text entry box of Fig. 2, and includes a drop-down arrow on the right for accessing a drop-down list of reviewers. The drop-down list of Fig. 3 of the Office Action does not list previously entered items; rather, it lists reviewers who have entered comments into the document being edited.

Contrary to the statement at ¶10 of the Office Action, Applicants do not find the drop-down selection arrow of Fig. 3 of the Office Action to be "selectively displayed". Rather, is always

displayed. Using the Word 2002 version, Applicants find that the drop-down selection arrow is displayed immediately after selecting "Comment" from the left-hand list to bring up the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box for the very first time. Although at this point the user has made no entries whatsoever, the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box already includes a drop-down arrow as well as default text "Any reviewer". In Word 2002, selection of the down-arrow provides a drop-down list including only the default "Any reviewer" entry, even though the user has not yet entered any sort of text into the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box.

If the user wants to input the name of a different reviewer, the user can overwrite this text to provide a new entry. This is shown in Fig. 4 of the Office Action where the default text is replaced by "Bob" after bringing up the drop-down list.

This assumes, however, that the user recognizes that the dialog includes free-form text entry capability. However, the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box with default "Any reviewer" text is indistinguishable from a regular drop-down list. If the user fails to recognize the availability of free-form text entry, then the user will assume that it is a drop-down list in which the only available selection is "Any reviewer". This is precisely the problem addressed in the present application.

The present application provides free-form text entry dialogs including a drop-down list of previous entries which is less likely to confuse the user

The present application recognizes how confusing it can be for a user to be confronted with a free-form text entry box including a down-arrow for selecting a drop-down list of previous entries, where no previous entries yet exist. The resulting window strongly resembles a pure list box, and the user may fail to recognize that free-form text entry is possible.

To address this problem, the present application makes the display of the drop-down arrow conditional upon there actually being previous entries. When the user confronts the dialog for the very first time, the user does not know what kind of dialog it is. But, since there are no previous entries, the dialog of the present application omits the drop-down arrow. The user is thus confronted only with a free-form entry line or space, which is very likely to be correctly interpreted as a free-form entry dialog. The user will therefore focus on the free-form entry line or space, bringing up a text entry cursor in complete accordance with the correct expectation of the user.

Thereafter, if the user again brings up the dialog, it will now have a previous entry. Accordingly, the down-arrow is now displayed, providing the user with access to the previous entry for optional re-use. Confusion at this point due to providing both the down arrow and the free-form text entry line or space is unlikely because the user had previously encountered this dialog and now knows it is a free-form entry dialog. Moreover, even if the user forgets and momentarily believes it to be a pure drop-down list, when the user clicks on the down-arrow and sees the previous entry the user is likely to be reminded of the free-form text entry capability of the dialog.

The examples from MS Word provided in the Office Action do not show such a dialog, in which the first time the user sees the free-form text entry dialog it omits the down-arrow, with the down-arrow being shown only in subsequent usages of the dialog for which there actually is a list of previous entries. Rather, the MS Word examples of the Office Action illustrate precisely the disadvantages of the prior art discussed in the background of the present application.

Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 patentably distinguish over the references of record

Claim 2 has been placed into independent form including the elements of canceled base claim 1 as well as elements of canceled dependent claims 4 and 5.

Claim 2 as set forth herein calls for a text entry dialog box system including a text entry space for free-form entry of text items into the system by the associated user, a memory for storing previously entered text items, means for selectively displaying a selection button solely when the memory contains at least one previously entered text item, and means for displaying a list of the previously entered text items stored in the memory responsive to selection of the selection button by the associated user.

Claim 2 stands rejected based on Fig. 3 of the Office Action. There are at least two reasons for withdrawing this anticipation rejection.

First, the cited MS Word dialog does not show the selection down-arrow solely when the memory contains at least one previously entered text item. Indeed, Fig. 3 shows the selection down-arrow as well as the drop-down list generated by user selection of the down-arrow, even though there are no previously entered text items. The entry "Any reviewer" was not previously entered by the user – it is a default value. The down-arrow selector appears immediately upon first invoking the text box, even before the user has any opportunity to enter any text items. This can be

confusing for the user, who may assume the dialog is a pure drop-down list limited to the listed default value, and fail to realize that there is an option to enter text into the text entry portion.

In contrast, Claim 2 calls for the selection button to be displayed solely when the memory contains at least one previously entered text item. Thus, when the dialog first appears, there will be no previously entered text items, and so the down-arrow or other selection button will not be displayed. The user is therefore not misled into believing the dialog is a drop-down list.

Second, the drop-down list of Fig. 3 of the Office Action does not show previous entries inputted by the user into the free-form text portion of the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box. Rather, the drop-down list shows the names of reviewers who have entered comments into the document being edited, so that the user can locate the comments of a specific reviewer. To show this, the Examiner is invited to enter text into the free-form text entry portion of the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box, and then try to get the drop-down list to show that text entry. It cannot be done. On the other hand, if a new comment is added to the edited document (using Insert—Comment) and then the "Enter reviewer's name" dialog is opened up and the drop-down list selection button is selected, it will be found that the drop-down list includes the name of the reviewer who entered the comment via Insert—Comment. (Typically, the reviewer is identified based on the MS Word license information; in the Office Action case, based on Fig. 1 of the Office Action the name of the reviewer is likely to appear as "GVaughn2").

In contrast, Claim 2 calls for displaying a list of the previously entered text items.

Claim 3 additionally calls for a parser for parsing the text items as parsed text items prior to storage in the memory, and means for selectively storing the parsed text items in said memory based on the parsed text item containing at least one character. **Claim 7** additionally calls for means for initializing the memory as empty each time the associated window is started.

Dependent claims 3 and 7 stand rejected "for fully incorporating the deficiencies of their base claims." This does not assert a basis for rejecting dependent claims 3 and 7; this asserts a basis for rejecting the base claims. Applicants respectfully request that the forthcoming Office Action either show where the applied MS Word reference anticipates a parser and a selective storing means as called out in claim 3, and the initializing means called for in claim 7, or withdraw the corresponding anticipation rejections based on MS Word.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 as set forth herein patentably distinguish over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants ask for allowance of claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 as set forth herein.

Claims 8, 11-13, 15, and 16 patentably distinguish over the references of record

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of canceled claim 9 and to clarify that the contents of the memory are previously typed text entries.

Claim 8 as set forth herein calls for a method including: displaying a text entry section of a dialog box on the screen of the display device; counting entries stored previously in a memory; displaying a drop-down list selection button on the screen of the display device only if the counting produces a value greater than zero; receiving a typed text entry from the associated user via the text entry section of the dialog box; and updating the memory by adding a new entry corresponding to the typed text entry.

In rejecting claim 9, the Office Action appears to intermingle two separate and distinct text entry inputs in concluding that a drop-down list selection button is displayed only if there are previous entries. In Fig. 2 of the Office Action, the text input is the "Enter page number" text entry box corresponding to the "Page" option of the left-hand selection list. The "Enter page number" text entry box has no option for providing a drop-down list of previously entered text. The value typed into the "Enter page number" text entry box is expected to correspond to a page number, and the input value is used to "goto" that page.

In Fig. 3 of the Office Action, the text input box is the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box, which is an entirely different text entry box from the "Enter page number" text entry box. The value typed into the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box is expected to be the name of a reviewer, and the input value is used to "go to" the next comment entered by that reviewer. As noted previously, the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box always displays the down-arrow drop-down list selection button, even when, as shown in Fig. 3 of the Office Action, the user has not yet entered anything into the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box to serve as a previous entry for listing. Moreover, the drop-down list accessed by the selection button does not display previously entered text; rather, it lists the reviewers who have entered comments into the document being edited.

Neither the "Enter page number" text entry box of Fig. 2 of the Office Action, nor the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box of Fig. 3 of the Office Action satisfies the elements of method claim 8. The "Enter page number" text entry box never displays a drop-down list selection button, while the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box always displays a drop-down list selection button, and that button does not access a list of previous entries.

Moreover, even if the two distinct text entry boxes, namely the "Enter page number" text entry box of Fig. 2 of the Office Action and the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box of Fig. 3 of the Office Action, are viewed as a single unitary text entry box (a view which Applicants dispute, since the two text entry input boxes receive different types of inputs and do different things with those inputs, and merely happen to appear in the same place on the screen when the left-hand selector is switched between the "Page" and "Comment" search criteria) the result does not anticipate claim 8 for still yet other reasons.

The drop-down list selection button is not omitted in Fig. 2 "because the count value for the list is zero" as suggested at ¶17 of the Office Action. No matter how many numbers are entered into the text entry of Fig. 2, a drop-down list selection button is never displayed for the "Enter page number" text entry box. Moreover, if a reviewer name is entered into the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box followed by going back to the "Page" criterion, again no down-arrow is displayed for the "Enter page number" text entry box. Clearly, it is not counting entries stored previously in a memory and displaying a drop-down list selection button on the screen of the display device only if the counting produces a value greater than zero, as called for in claim 8.

Similarly, the "Enter reviewer's name" text entry box always displays a drop-down list selection button accessing a list of reviewers who have entered comments into the document. If the document contains no comments, then only the default value of "Any reviewer" is listed. Again, this clearly shows that it is not counting entries stored previously in a memory and displaying a drop-down list selection button on the screen of the display device only if the counting produces a value greater than zero, as called for in claim 8.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8, 11-13, 15, and 16 as set forth herein patentably distinguish over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants ask for allowance of claims 8, 11-13, 15, and 16 as set forth herein.

New claims 21 and 22 patentably distinguish over the references of record

New **claim 21** calls for a graphical user interface text input dialog including a free-form text entry portion displayed on an associated display device for receiving a free-form text entry from an associated user, a memory storing free-form text entries previously entered by the associated user into the free-form text entry portion, a drop-down list selection button displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion only when the memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry, and a drop-down selection list portion displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion responsive to activation by the associated user of the drop-down list selection button. The drop-down selection list portion lists the previously entered free-form text entries stored in the memory for selection by the associated user.

Fig. 2 of the Office Action does not display a drop-down list selection button. Fig. 3 of the Office Action displays a drop-down list selection button in conjunction with a free-form text entry portion, but the selection button is always displayed, rather than being displayed only when a memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry. Indeed, there is no indication in the Fig. 3 or in the general behavior of the "Go to comment" dialog that previously entered free-form text is stored anywhere.

Moreover, the drop-down list provided by the selection button of Fig. 3 of the Office Action does not list previously entered free-form text entries. Rather, it lists reviewers who have entered comments into the document being edited.

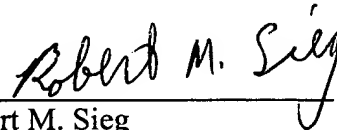
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21 and 22 patentably distinguish over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of claims 21 and 22.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 as set forth herein are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert M. Sieg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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Attachment: Marked up version of drawing sheet containing Figs. 4(a), 4(b), 4(c), 4(d)



Marked up version of drawing sheet containing Figs. 4(a), 4(b), 4(c), 4(d)
showing changes in red ink

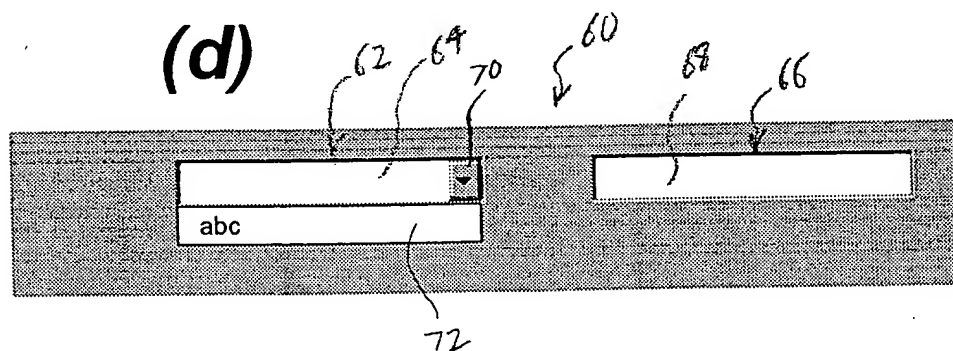
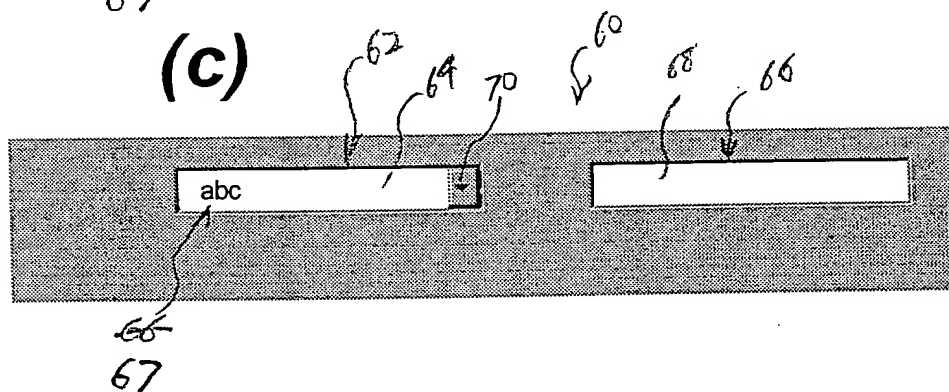
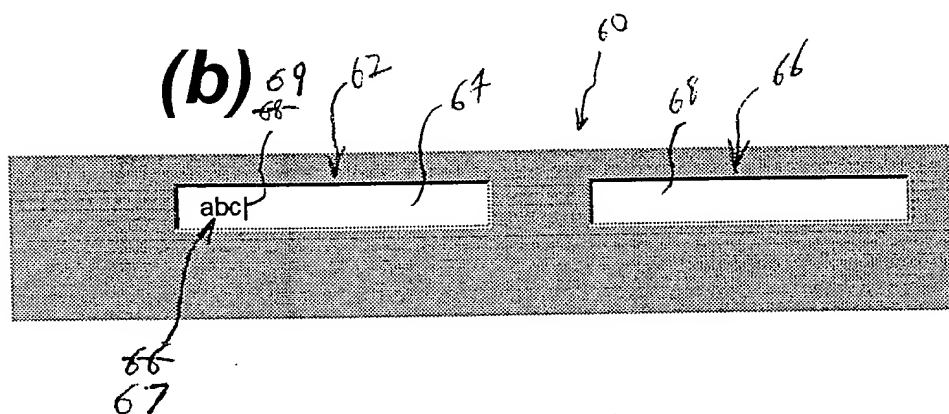
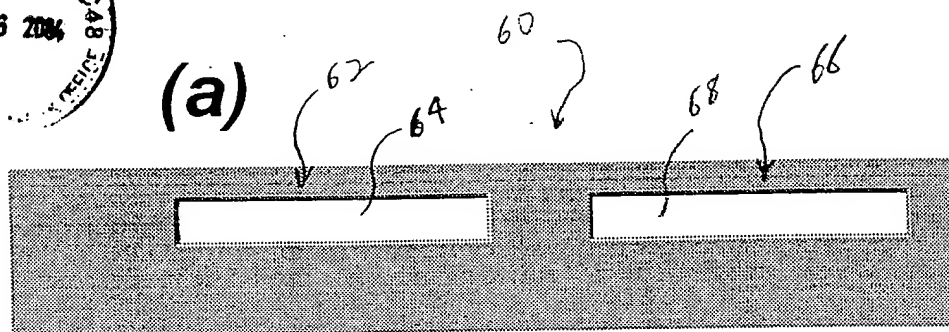


FIG 4